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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

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CONFIDENTIAL.

REPORTS ON NATIVE NEWSPAPERS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 1882.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of Publication.	Editions.	Number of Copies issued.
	Tamil.			
1	Janavinodini (January 1882)	Madras	Monthly ...	337
2	Travancore Abhimani, (10th March 1882)...	Nagercoil ...	Tri-monthly.	380
3	Vettycodeyon (11th March 1882)	Madras	Weekly ...	200
4	Kalaganithan (11th ,, ,,) ...	Do.	Do. ...	300
5	Thathuvavicharini, (12th March 1882) ...	Do.	Do. ...	250
6	Sudesa Mitran, (12th ,, ,,) ...	Do.	Do. ...	1,500
7	Calanithi, (15th March 1882)	Coimbatore ...	Bi-monthly..	150
8	Suthesabhimani, (15th March 1882) ...	Salem	Do. ...	150
9	Sathiavartamani (15th ,, ,,) ...	Pasumalai ...	Do. ...	792
10	Vettycodeyon, (18th March 1882) ...	Madras	Weekly ...	200
11	Kalaganithan, (18th ,, ,,) ...	Do.	Do. ...	300
12	Thathuvavicharini, (19th March 1882) ..	Do.	Do. ...	250
13	Sudesa Mitran, (19th March 1882) ...	Do.	Do. ...	1,500
	Telugu.			
14	Andhrabhashasanjivani	Madras	Monthly ...	150
15	Purusharthapradaini	Masulipatam ...	Do. ...	206
16	Vivekavardhani	Rajahmundry ...	Weekly ...	300
17	Vartalahari	Berhampore ...	Bi-monthly..	175
18	Sri Prabandhakalpavalli	Peddapur ...	Monthly ...	...
19	Hindu Desabhimani	Madras... ...	Weekly ...	...
20	Chintamani	Rajahmundry ...	Monthly ...	...
	Malayalam.			
21	Kerala Mitram	Cochin	Tri-monthly.	200

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORTS ON NATIVE PAPERS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

Report on Tamil Newspapers for the Week ending 18th March 1882.

The Editor of the *Vettycodeyon* says that the bailiffs in the Small Cause Courts are few in number, and the work they turn out little; but that if they were, instead of a fixed salary, paid according to the number of summonses they daily serve upon the parties, they would do a great deal of work.

MADRAS, (Signed) T. WEIR,
20th March 1882. *Tamil Translator to Government.*

Report on Tamil Newspapers for the Week ending 25th March 1882.

A correspondent of the *Salem Suthesabhimani* says that Shaik Imam Sahib, who is employed as a compounder in the Local Fund Dispensary of Atúr, does not know English, and that the patients are afraid to take medicines from him.

2. The Editor of the *Sudesa Mitran* remarks that it will be well if the Local Fund and Municipal Boards in various places follow in the foot-steps of the Local Fund Board of Dowlaishweram, who have resolved to establish a school for teaching handicraft.

MADRAS, (Signed) T. WEIR,
27th March 1882. *Tamil Translator to Government.*

Report on Telugu Newspapers for the Month of March 1882.

The Editor of the *Andhrabhashasanjivani*, No. 5, complains against the removal of the Sub-Magistrate's office from Rayalcheruvu (Bellary District) to Adaki. Rayalcheruvu is a railway as well as a postal station, and a centre of trade and cultivation, while Adaki is an unimportant place with no water-supply. Moreover, the taluk cutcherry formerly at Teruvalam is removed a distance of 20 miles to Gudiyátam, though Teruvalam is well supplied with water and is a holy place of pilgrimage. The Editor hopes that the authorities will kindly reconsider these arrangements.

In No. 1 of the *Hindu Desabhimani*, a new weekly journal, a correspondent, signing himself "Desabhimani," from Cuddapah complains very bitterly in a long letter about the mismanagement of the Chingleput case. Hopes were entertained that His Excellency the Governor of Madras would have instituted a searching inquiry into the merit of the case.

No. 2 of the above paper contains another correspondence from a person at Guntúr calling himself "Friend of the Munsifs," in which he complains against the present set of Village Munsifs who are in most cases illiterate, and hopes that a better class of men be employed when vacancies occur.

MADRAS, (Signed) GUSTAV OPPERT,
6th April 1882. *Telugu Translator to Government.*

Report on Malayalam Newspaper for the Month of March 1882.

1st March.—The leading article is extracted from several issues of the *Keralôpakari.* It gives an account of the Phœnicians of old. They were as active and industrious as the bees and ants. They were the early merchants of the world, having sent out colonies to all parts of the Mediterranean and ventured beyond the Straits of Gibraltar. Commerce and navigation were amongst them in the most flourishing state. They made great progress in Arithmetic and Astronomy and steered their ships by the stars, and, according to some authorities, they were the inventors of letters and coins. But there can be no doubt that the Greeks, Aryans and Hebrews had known letters at a very early period. The Phœnicians excelled all the other nations of the earth in their elegant and beautiful manufactures. They discovered the process of making glass. Solomon employed Tyrian artists in raising his temple,—the most magnificent building mentioned in the Holy Scriptures. They having once landed in Cyprus kidnapped many of its inhabitants and sold them as slaves. They discovered heaps of silver in Spain and imported it into their own country. By false reports of danger they dissuaded their credulous neighbours from venturing out of their homes. By navigation they rose marvellously in opulence, and their knowledge and wisdom also increased. It is said that it was they who first found out the red dye and subsequently the Cochineal.

2. Another article, taken from the *Cochin Argus,* complains that the Dewan of Cochin has not yet redeemed his promise of re-organising the police; that the present staff of police officers at Mattancheri are quite incapable of suppressing the mischievous proceedings of the local professional depredators; that a certain merchant having at midnight captured a thief within his premises, handed him over to the police, but that the offender was released the next day, although his offence was not bailable; that the complainant underwent a great deal of trouble and spent about 50 rupees in prosecuting the thief before the Magistrate, but that all his efforts to bring the man to justice proved futile, the accused was acquitted and discharged; thinks that, if the complainant instead of going to prosecute, severely thrashed the offender when he seized him and let him off, his proceeding would have been more successful; reports an opinion expressed by some inhabitants of Mattancheri that in future a compromise would be better than a complaint in cases of theft; considers the non-fulfilment of the Dewan's promise to be rather discreditable to his exalted position, and hopes that a Police Department will soon be inaugurated. The Editor of this paper notices another case of theft, which was committed at a Brahmin feeding-house of the Sirkar and which has baffled all inquiries. He calls the attention of the Dewan Peshkar to the matter; requests him to be more vigorous in action, lest the subordinate officials may totally disregard his existence; and trusts that the appointment of a Commission for a fresh inquiry will prove effectual in eliciting the facts of the case.

3. There is nothing worthy of notice among the rest of the contents of this issue.

4. *March 11th.*—The leading article laments over the misfortune that has befallen the proposed scheme of railway between Shoranur and Cochin after it had received the approval of the Government of India. The writer ascribes the suspension of the project under instructions from the Secretary of State for India to mere jealousy. The neglect to improve the Cochin harbour, about which there has been a prolonged discussion and correspondence, is considered another misfortune. On behalf of the local merchants the writer prays at least the removal of the existing obstacles in the way of using the harbour, and its restoration to its former condition. Seeing that the traffic of the port is now wholly in the hands of natives, Europeans will hardly consider it worth their while to do any thing towards improving the harbour, while the native traders who are so apathetic, and whose sole object is to make gigantic profits out of small capital, and who will move about from place to place for the attainment of that view, will do nothing calculated to confer a public good. They have hitherto remained quite silent about the harbour improvements and the railway project. Unless the Governor of Madras pays a visit to Cochin and the local merchants and the representatives of the Cochin Sirkar join in fully explaining matters to His Excellency, or unless the Cochin

Sirkar takes the matter entirely into its own hands, no favorable report can be expected. The leader notices the establishment of steam-boat communication between Cochin and Alleppey by a Bombay Firm, and suggests certain measures to be adopted by the Travancore Sirkar to afford facilities for the navigation of boats and to secure convenience to passengers landing or embarking at intermediate stations.

5. The second article mentions a case of torture for the purpose of extorting confession of an offence punishable with the extreme penalty of the law. The tortured individuals, two in number, have complained to the Appeal Court of Cochin stating that they were subjected to the cruel treatment by the orders of the Kedungallúr Tahsildar, and specifying the modes of torture employed. The matter is pending inquiry before the Court. The Editor says that the imputation of torture may be unfounded, but that supposing it to be true the confession must be utterly worthless. It is a disgrace that a Magistrate, whether in British India or in any of the Native States, should have occasion to be charged with having resorted to torture. But it is a well-known fact that few of our Tahsildars are above suspicion. European Police Inspectors who ought to be expected to be a better or more honest class of men are lamentably worse in this respect. What is the use of employing torture? The absurdity of the act can only be equalled by its ferocity. What confessions will not be made by the pusillanimous under torture? Both torture and threats of torture are obstacles instead of being auxiliaries to the proper administration of justice. But the officials aforesaid are prompted to have recourse to such savage measures by a passion for notoriety for their detective talents, upon which their promotion to higher appointment may depend. Their sole aim is, therefore, to find some body or other to bear the offence committed, however despicable they render themselves by the process they adopt to attain their object. The Editor hopes that the authorities will take the necessary steps to put a stop to all kinds of torture, and says that, in making these remarks, he is not actuated by a desire to join in the general outcry against the present system of Travancore police, which will ultimately be found better than the old institution which it has superseded; but that his motive in giving expression to these views is, that they may have their due weight with the authorities when they re-organise the police system of the Cochin Sirkar.

6 A communicated article refers to the peculiar rules regarding descent of property among Malayalis. The usage had its origin in the circumstance of a regulation by Parasuráma, the maker or the first ruler of Malabar, that only the eldest member of a Nampudri Brahmin family should marry, while the junior members were allowed to consort with Sudra females. The issue of such connections being debarred from inheriting the property of their Brahmin fathers, were declared entitled to the property of their maternal uncles. The writer says that repudiations of wives by their husbands and husbands by their wives are so reprehensibly practised with impunity among the Sudras, who are not bound by any ties of matrimony that the necessity of some legislation on the subject in the present improved state of society has declared itself, as a continuance of the existing condition of things will undoubtedly work the downfall of the Sudras as a class.

7. *March 21st.*—The leading article occupying seven columns is a copy of a lecture, "On what constitutes a realm," delivered some four months ago by one Paulos, a Syrian Vicar, at a Malayalam school in Kottayam. According to the lecturer, the king, minister, allies, treasury, territories, forts, army, citizens and the tutor compose the Government of a realm. The existence of a king with a good minister, &c., is indispensable. At present, in Europe numbers of wicked people with the object of gaining their lawless ends not only pretend to ignore the desirability or necessity of kings, but also dare to perpetrate regicides. He refers to the last attempt on the life of the King of Spain, the assassination of the late Czar, and the preparations made to despatch the present Czar of Russia; and says that it is known that Napoleon III was on the point of being put to death or expelled from the State by the people of France when he fell into the hands of the enemy. The Vicar goes on stating different old stories, none of which appear to be worth the attention of Government.

8. A paragraph says that 390 females have been trained and duly qualified to practise medicine in the United States of America,—a fact that puts the uneducated women of Malabar to shame.

9. Another paragraph complains that certain notorious depredators residing in British Cochin are prowling about in search of booty; that some of their nocturnal excursions being discovered and reported to the police, the latter are said to have declined to interfere unless actual robberies or thefts are committed. The writer fails to see the wisdom of such a proceeding on the part of the police officers whose bounden duty is to prevent the perpetration of offences.

10. A third paragraph mentions a report that in compliance with the request of some Mussulmans who were celebrating a festival at a mosque, the police officer, in charge of the station of Native Cochin, actually allowed gambling to be practised. If this was in obedience to local customs of past years, the writer asks whether human sacrifices could now be permitted at feasts and ceremonies simply on the plea that such a practice once existed in the country.

MADRAS,
4th April 1882.

(Signed) E. THOMPSON,
Malayalam Translator to Government.

No. 279 (Miscellaneous).

Copy forwarded to the Under-Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India in the Departments noted below, and to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy :—

Home.
Foreign.
Finance and Commerce.
Public Works.
Military.
Legislative.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
13th May 1882.

C. G. MASTER,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

Public

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Date, 13-5-1882

F. R. Bantleman.

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